

#1

NOW!

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • STEFANO CASELLI • MARTE GRACIA

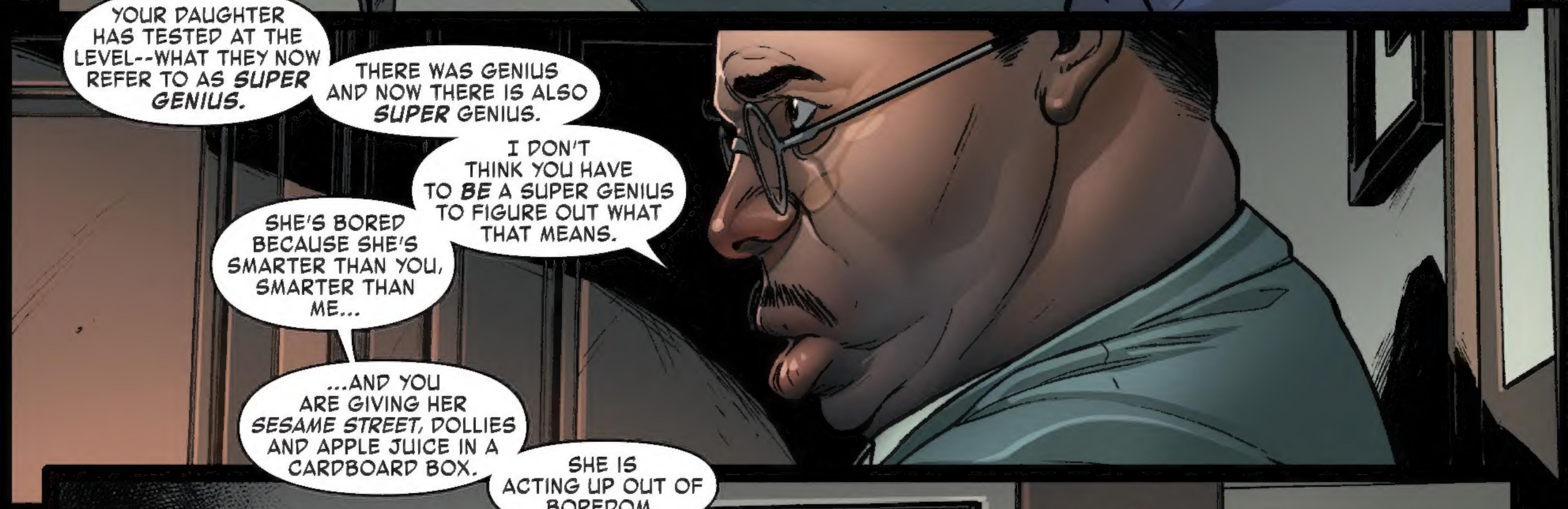
INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

MARVEL

#1



**RIRI WILLIAMS IS
IRONHEART**





I
LOVE THIS
WORLD!



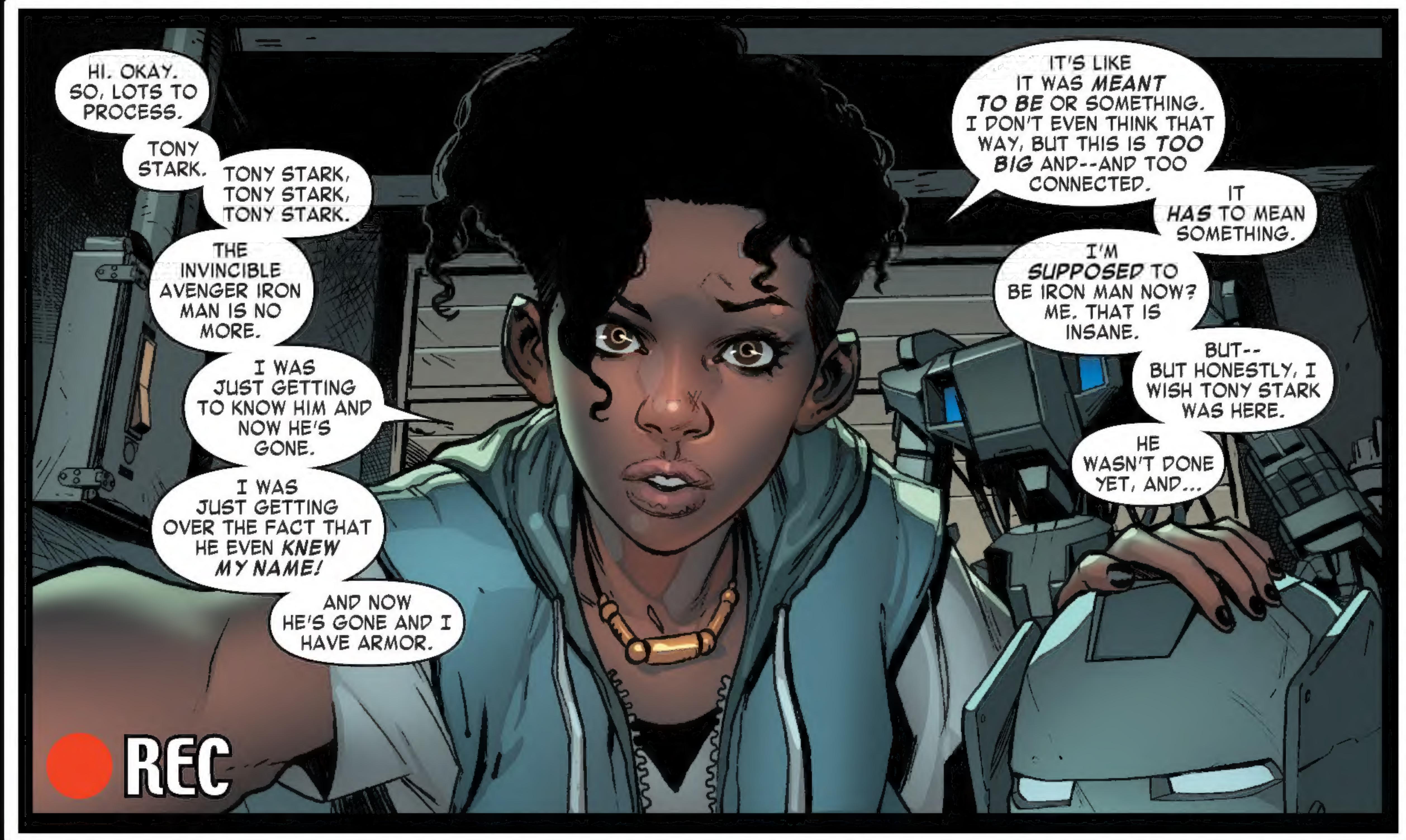
INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

**BRIAN
MICHAEL BENDIS**
WRITER

**STEFANO
CASELLI**
ARTIST

**MARTE
GRACIA**
COLOR ARTIST

**VC's CLAYTON
COWLES**
LETTERER

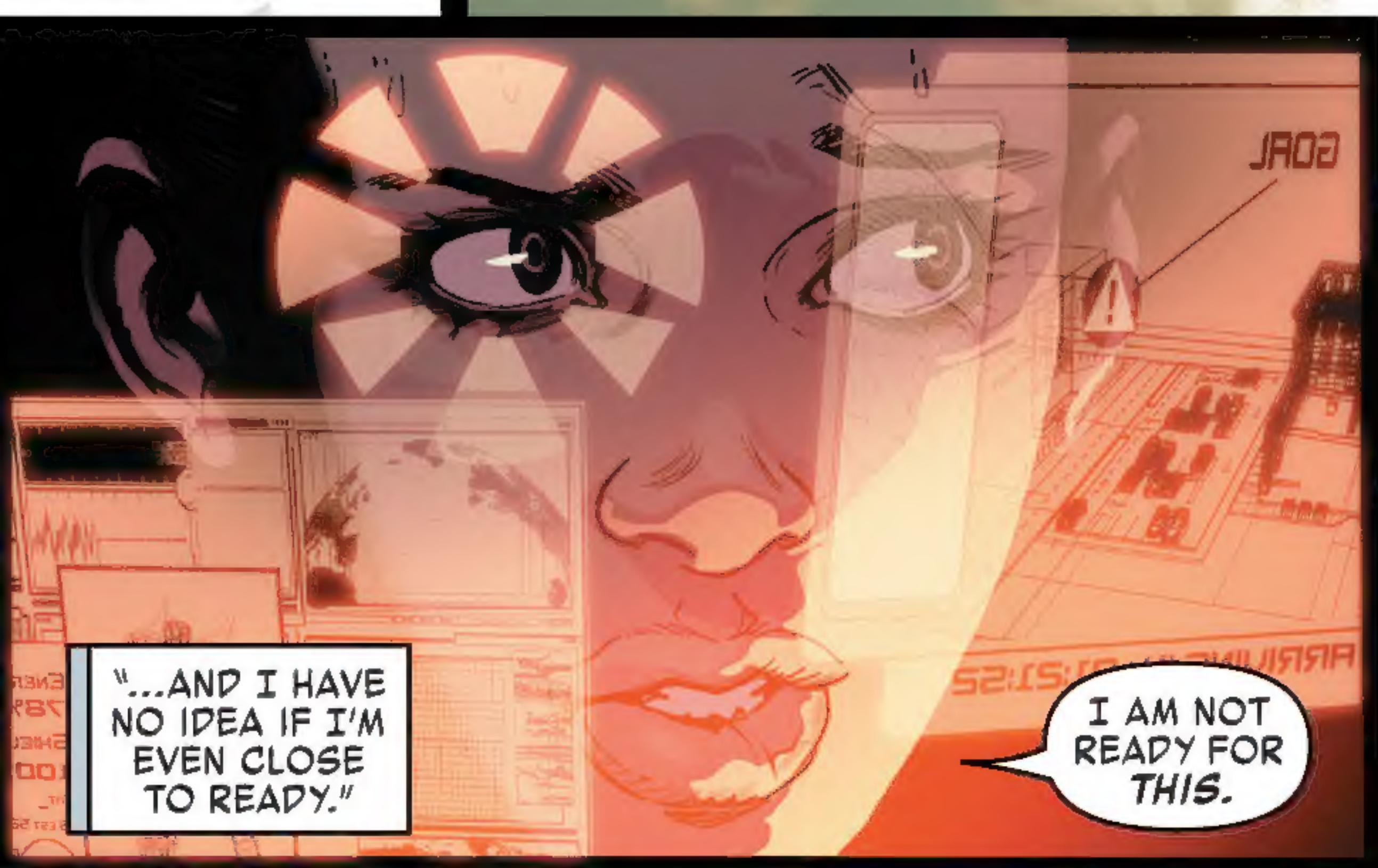


STEFANO CASELLI & MARTE GRACIA COVER ARTISTS

**JEFF DEKAL, JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER, MIKE McKONE & JASON KEITH;
ADI GRANOV; TOM RANEY & FRANK D'ARMATA; SKOTTIE YOUNG**
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

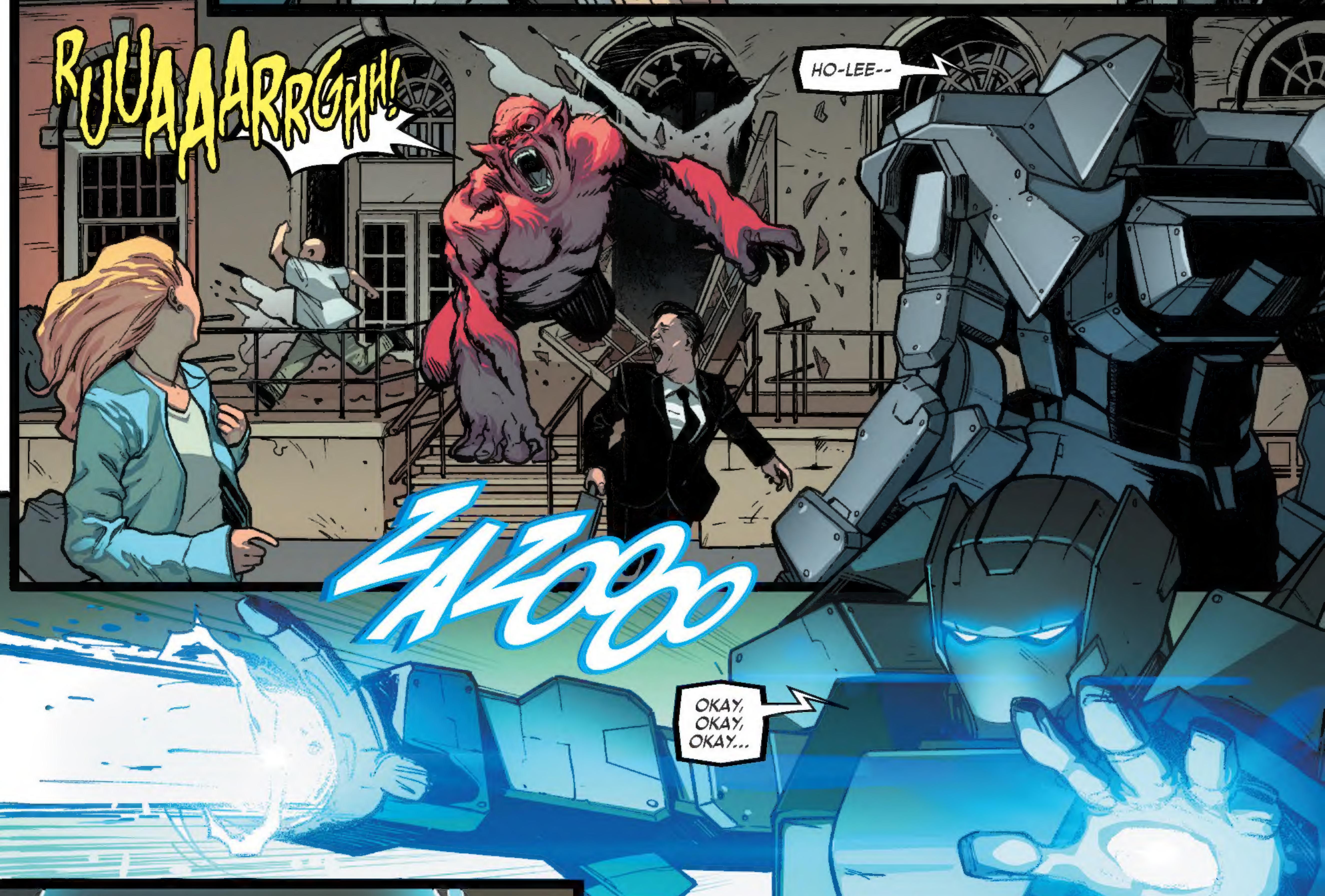
ALANNA SMITH ASSISTANT EDITOR **TOM BREVOORT EDITOR**
AXEL ALONSO EDITOR IN CHIEF **JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER**
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER **ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK AND JACK KIRBY



CHEYENNE, WYOMING.

WHATEVER THIS IS.





YOU
HYPOCRITES
WERE GOING TO
PUT ME IN THE
LOONY
BIN!

AND
YOU THOUGHT
I'D JUST SIT
THERE AND LET
YOU?!

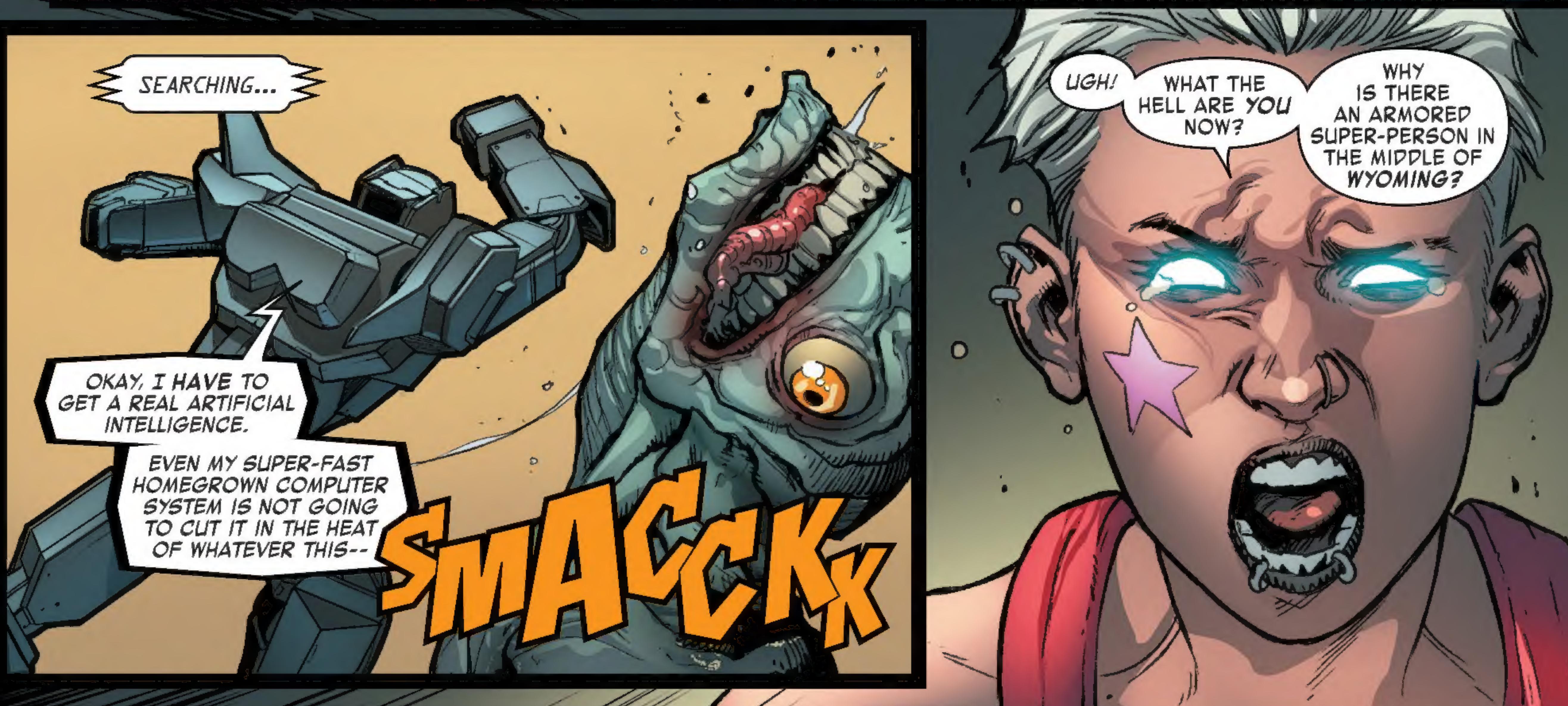
WHO'S
THE CRAZY
ONE?

I AM
ANIMAX!

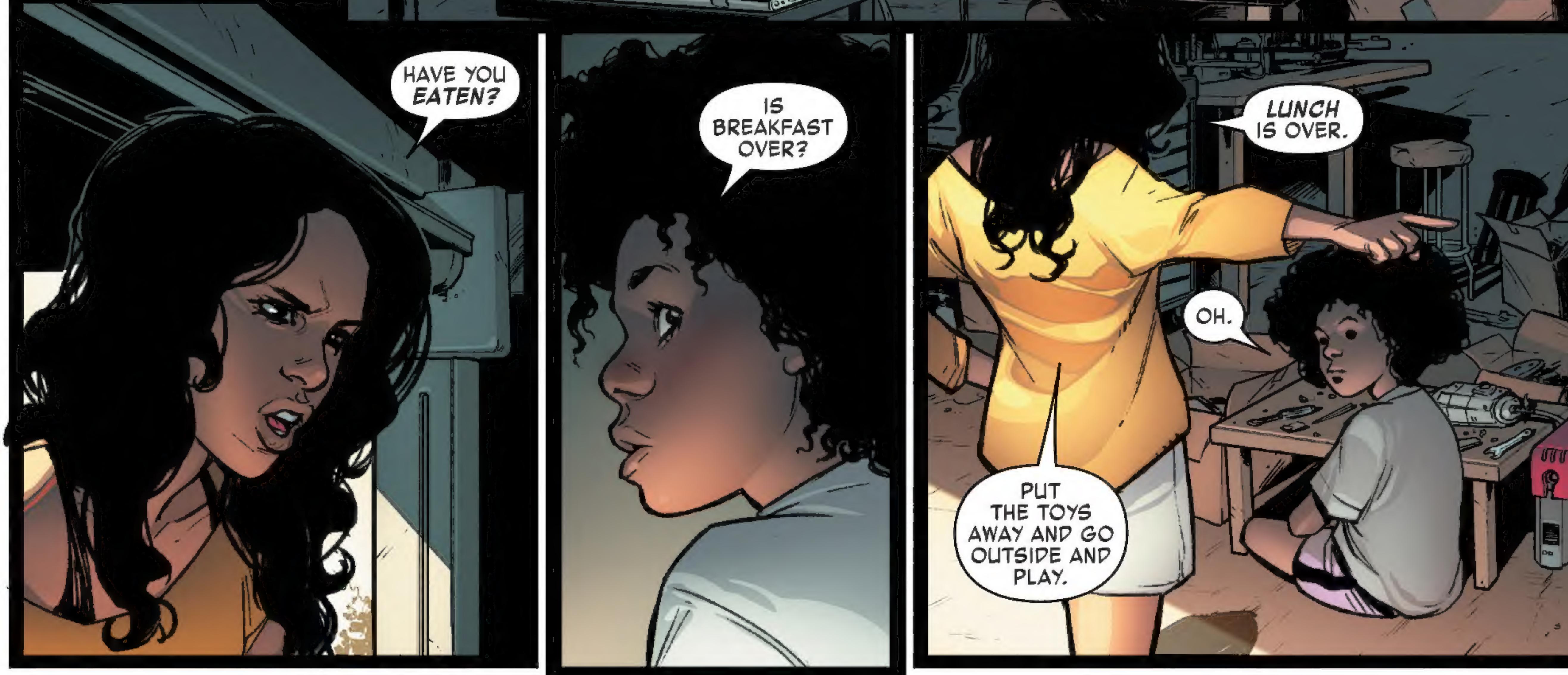
AND NOW
YOU WENT AND
PISSED ME
OFF.

SO SAY
GOODBYE TO
THIS CRAPHOLE
YOU LIVE
IN...

...BECAUSE
I'M TEARING IT
ALL DOWN ON MY
WAY OUT OF
HERE!



CHICAGO.
FIVE YEARS AGO.





KIND OF.

LIKE,
OKAY, WHO'S
YOUR FAVORITE
SUPER
HERO?

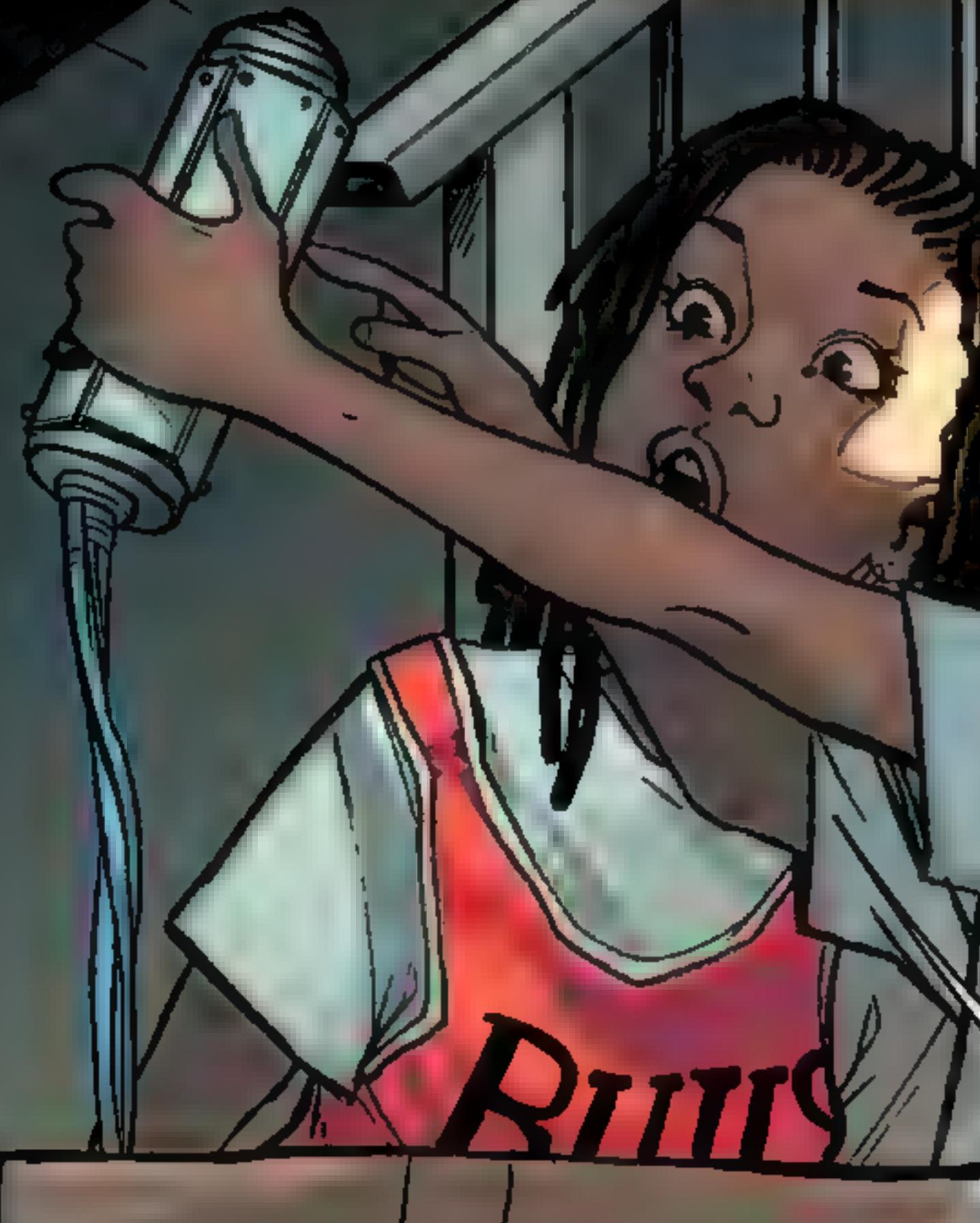
SPIDER-MAN.

REALLY?
TOTALLY.

I DON'T
LIKE SPIDERS, BUT
WHATEVER...

LET'S SAY
SPIDER-MAN WAS
CAPTURED.

LIKE, I DON'T
KNOW, DOCTOR DOOM
CAPTURED HIM AND HE WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO GET HOME IN TIME TO
DO WHATEVER HE DOES WHEN
HE'S NOT SPIDER-MAN.



THE IDEA
HERE IS HE PUSHES
A BUTTON ON, LIKE, HIS
WATCH AND IT UNLEASHES
THIS PRE-PROGRAMMED
BOT AND IT COVERS
FOR HIM.

IT E-MAILS
HIS BOSS SAYING HE'S
SICK, IT FEEDS HIS CAT,
IT GETS A MESSAGE
TO THE OTHER HEROES.

THAT'S
COOL.

BUT IT
NEEDS TO BE
SMALLER.

IT NEEDS TO BE
A TINY BUTTON ON
A WATCH OR--OR A
BELT BUCKLE.

I WANTED IT TO BE A
TECH-TATTOO ON THE SURFACE OF
THE SKIN, BUT--UGH--I'M NOT THERE YET.

YOU KNOW,
IT DOESN'T HAVE
TO BE JUST SUPER
HEROES. ANYONE IN THE
WORLD WOULD
WANT THIS.

"I
MISSED MY
FLIGHT." "I DON'T
WANT TO GO TO
SCHOOL..."

YEAH, YOU
KNOW, YOU'RE
RIGHT.

I MEAN,
ANYONE COULD
USE IT.

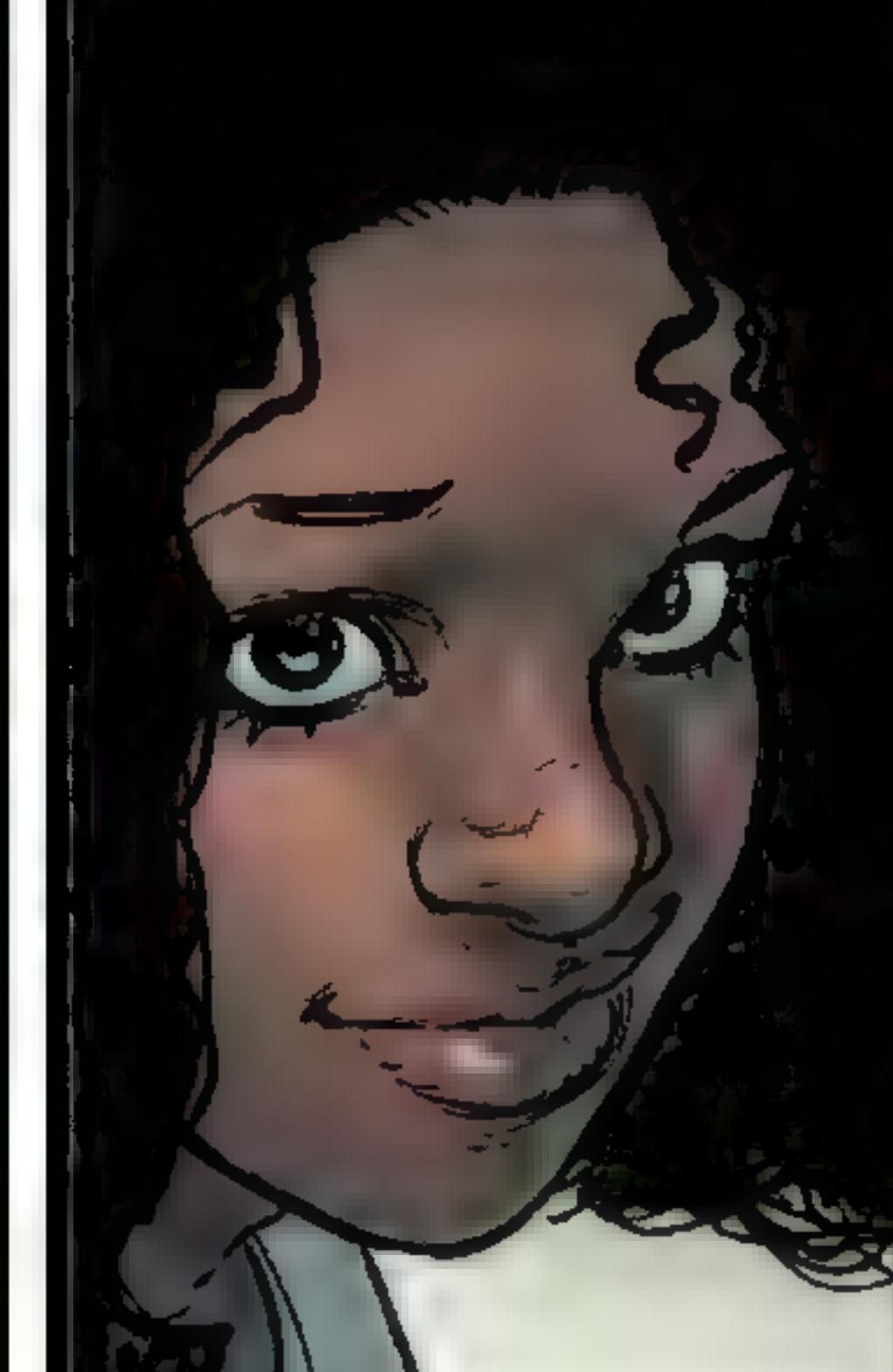
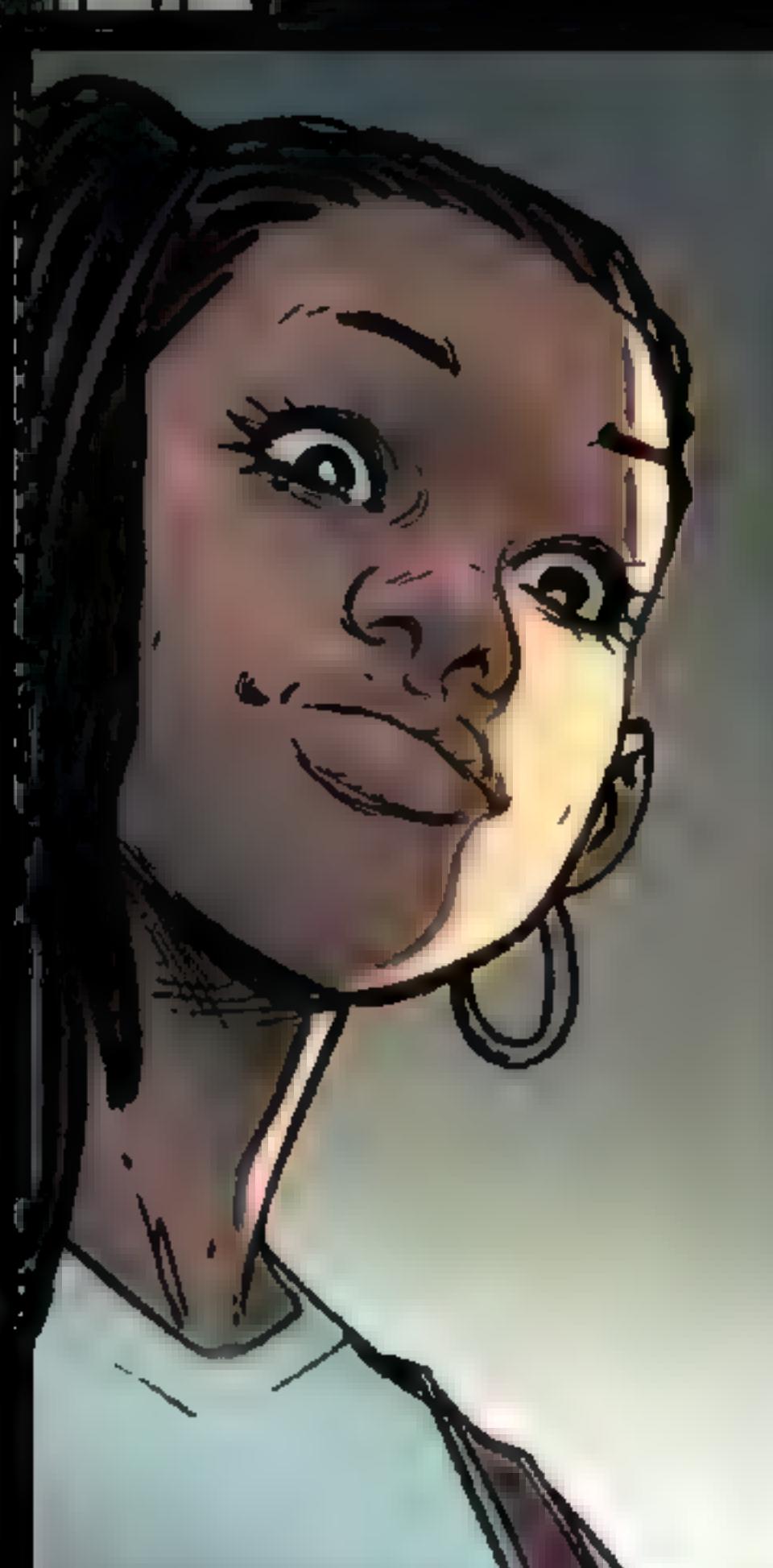
YOU
JUST NEED A
NAME.

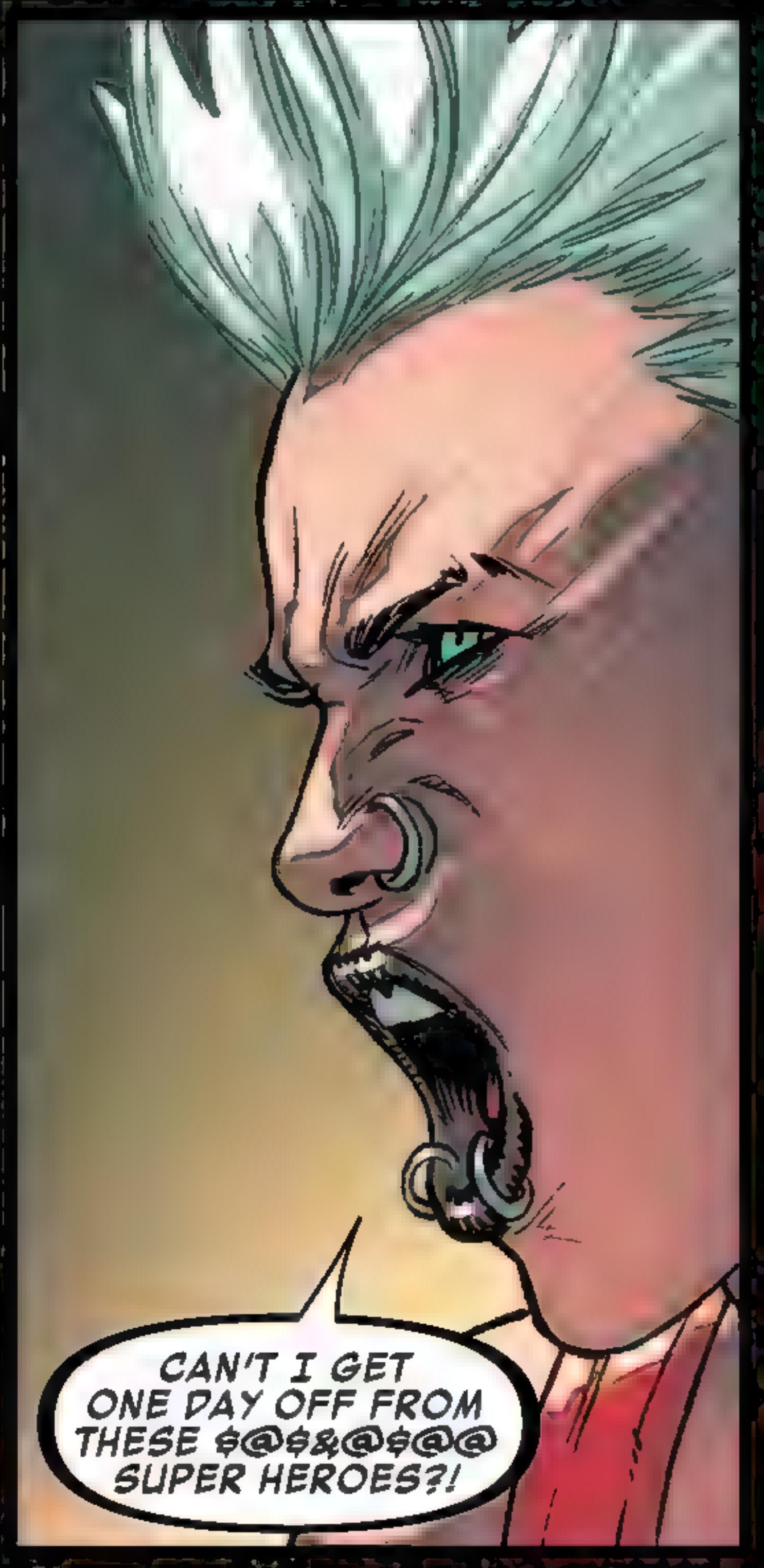
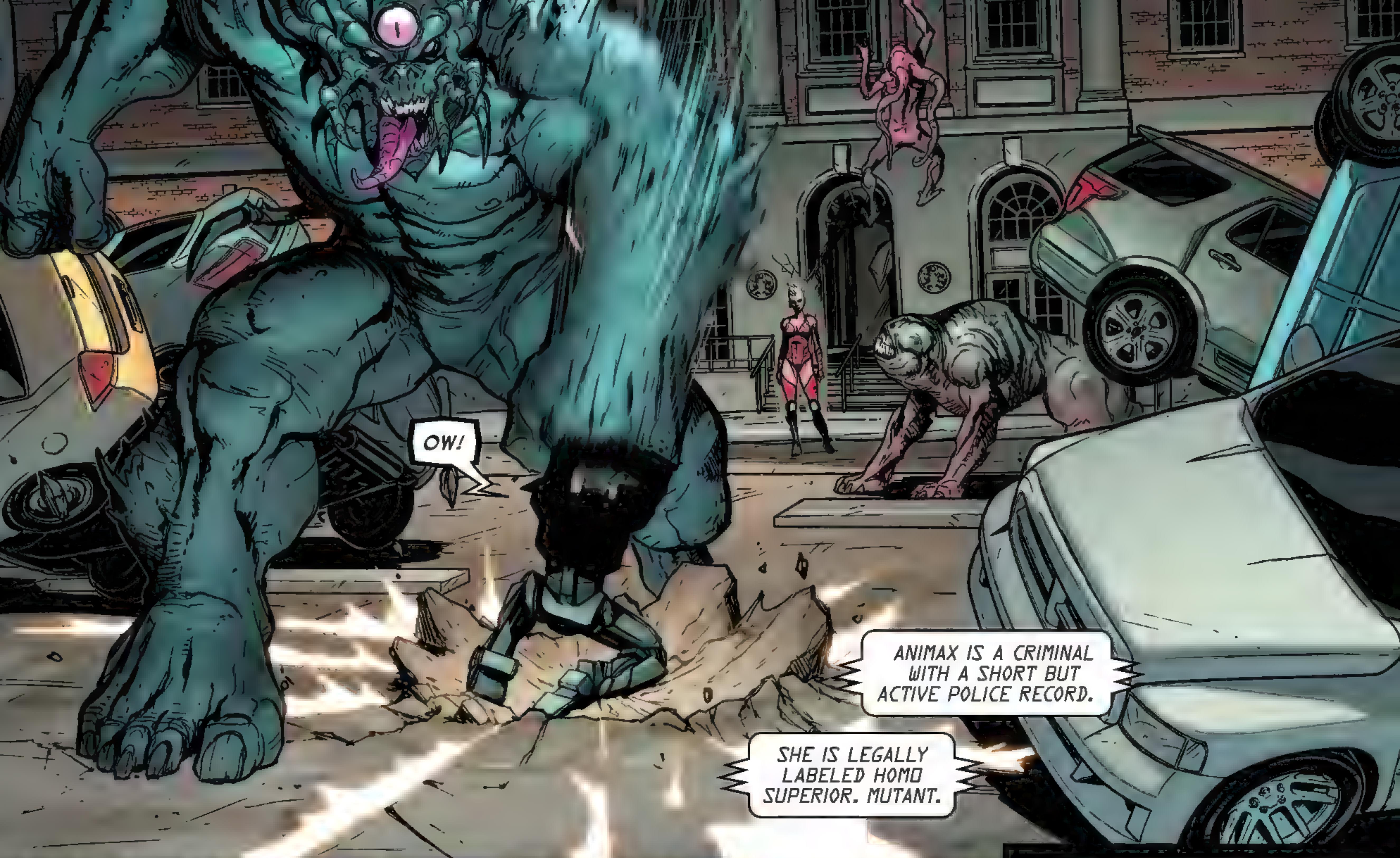
MY
NAME IS
RIRI.

NO.
I MEANT THE
THING YOU'RE
BUILDING NEEDS
A NAME.

YEAH,
I'M TERRIBLE
AT NAMING
THINGS.

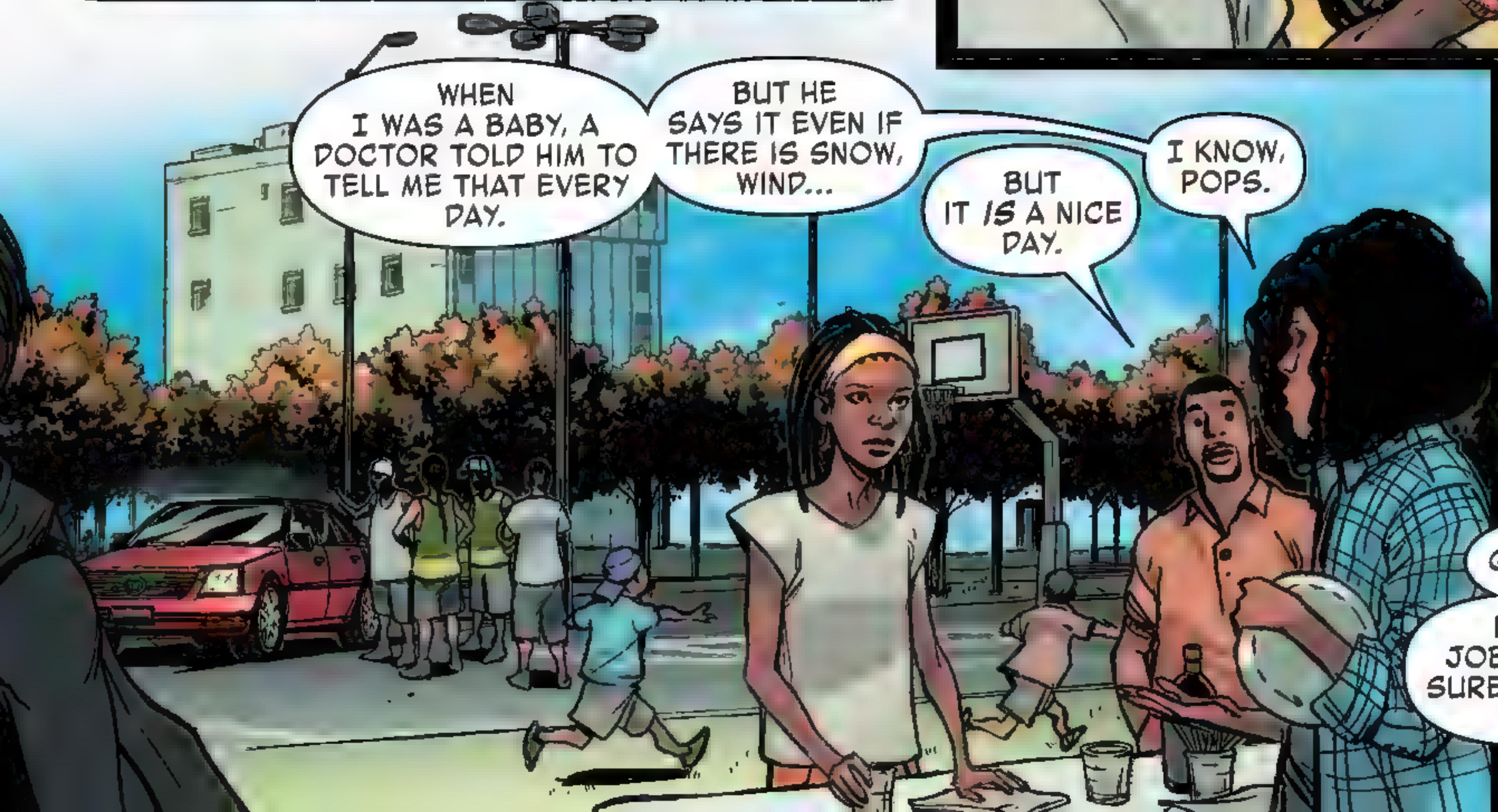
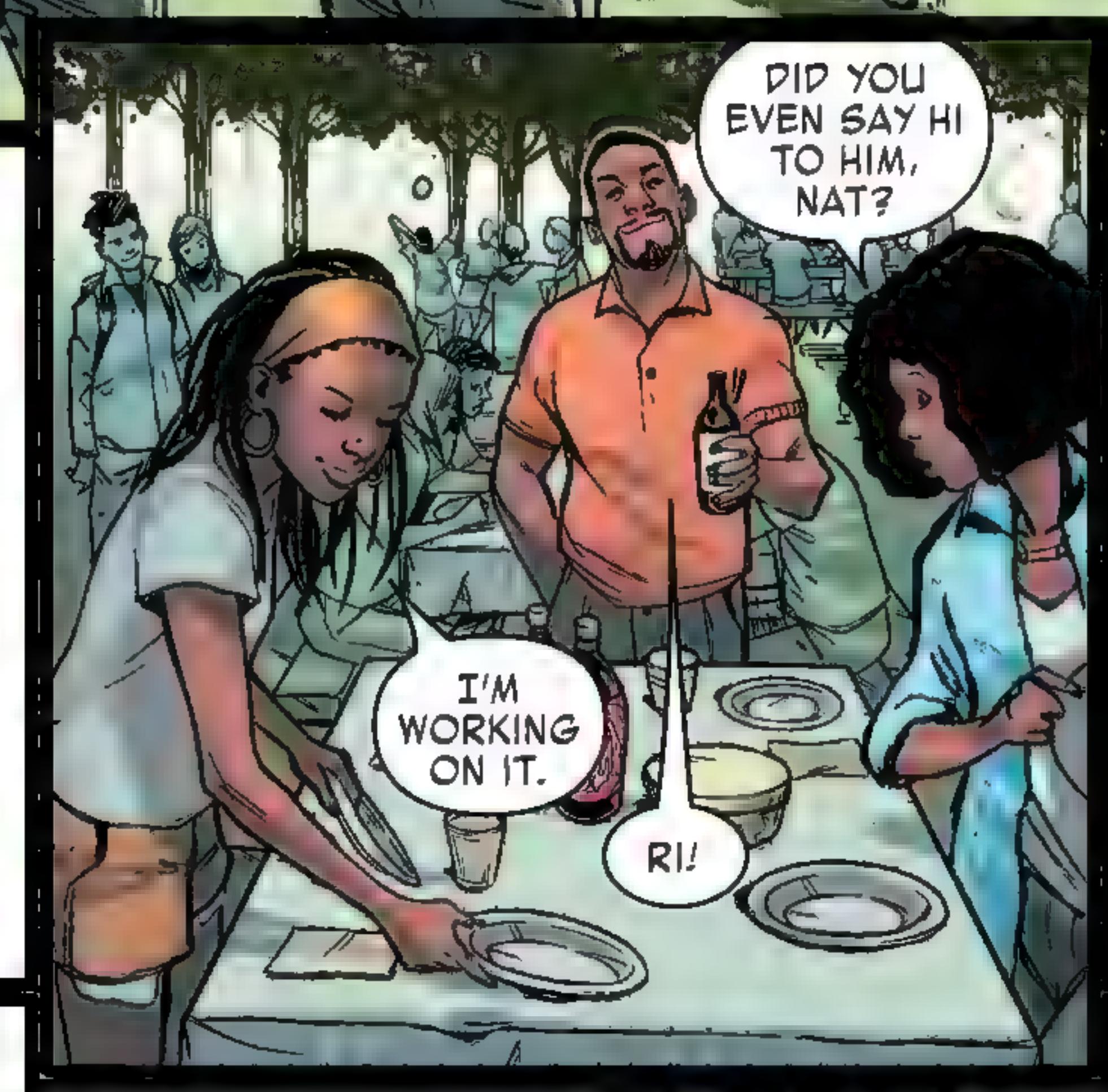
I'M
NATALIE.



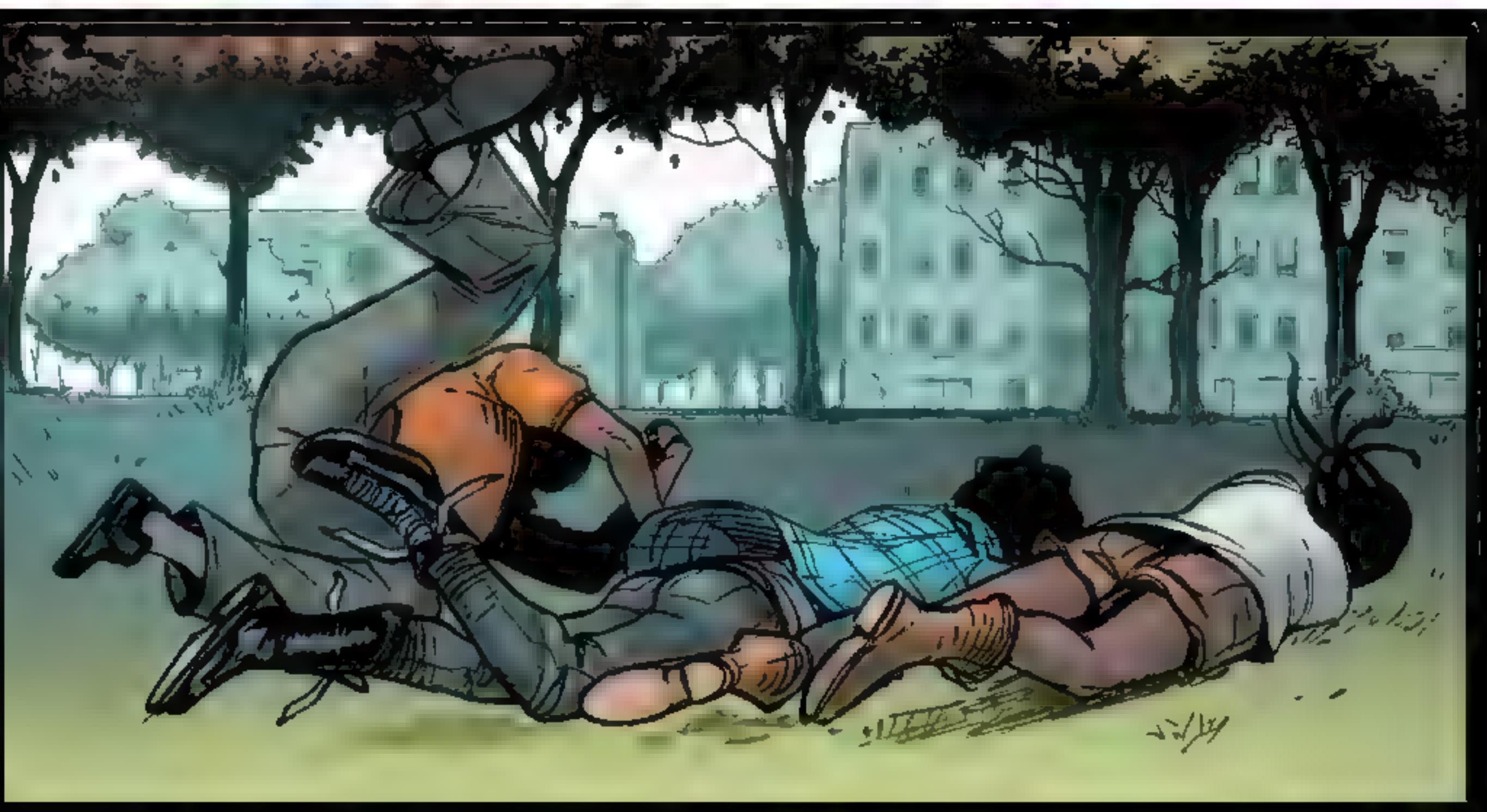
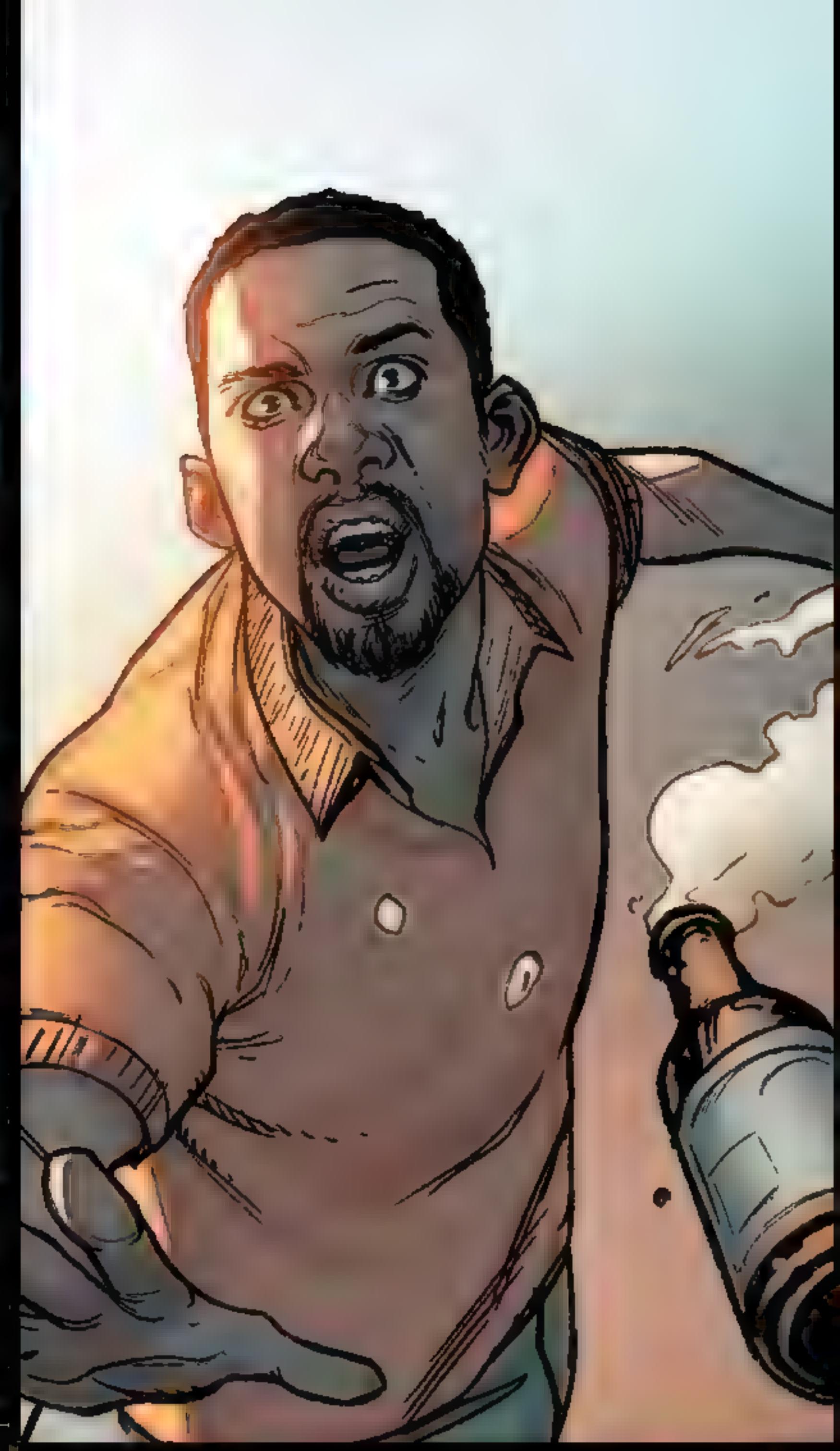


MARQUETTE PARK.

TWO YEARS AGO.

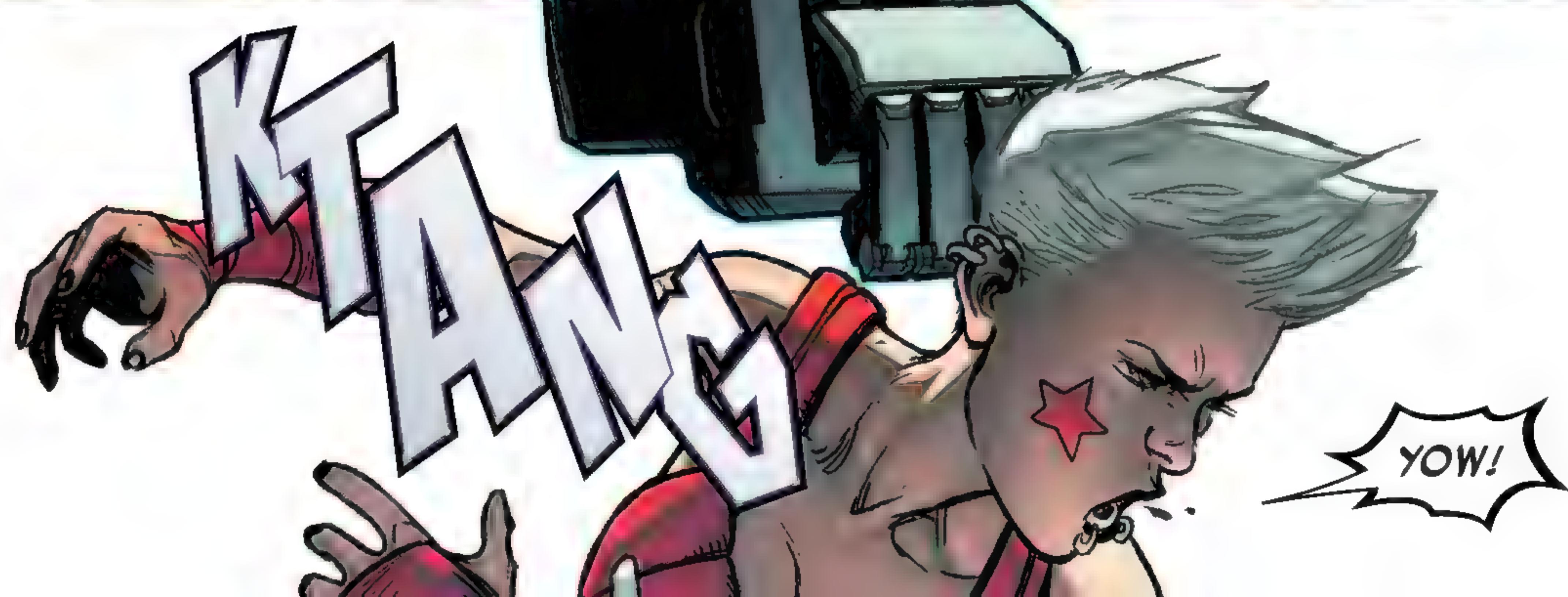
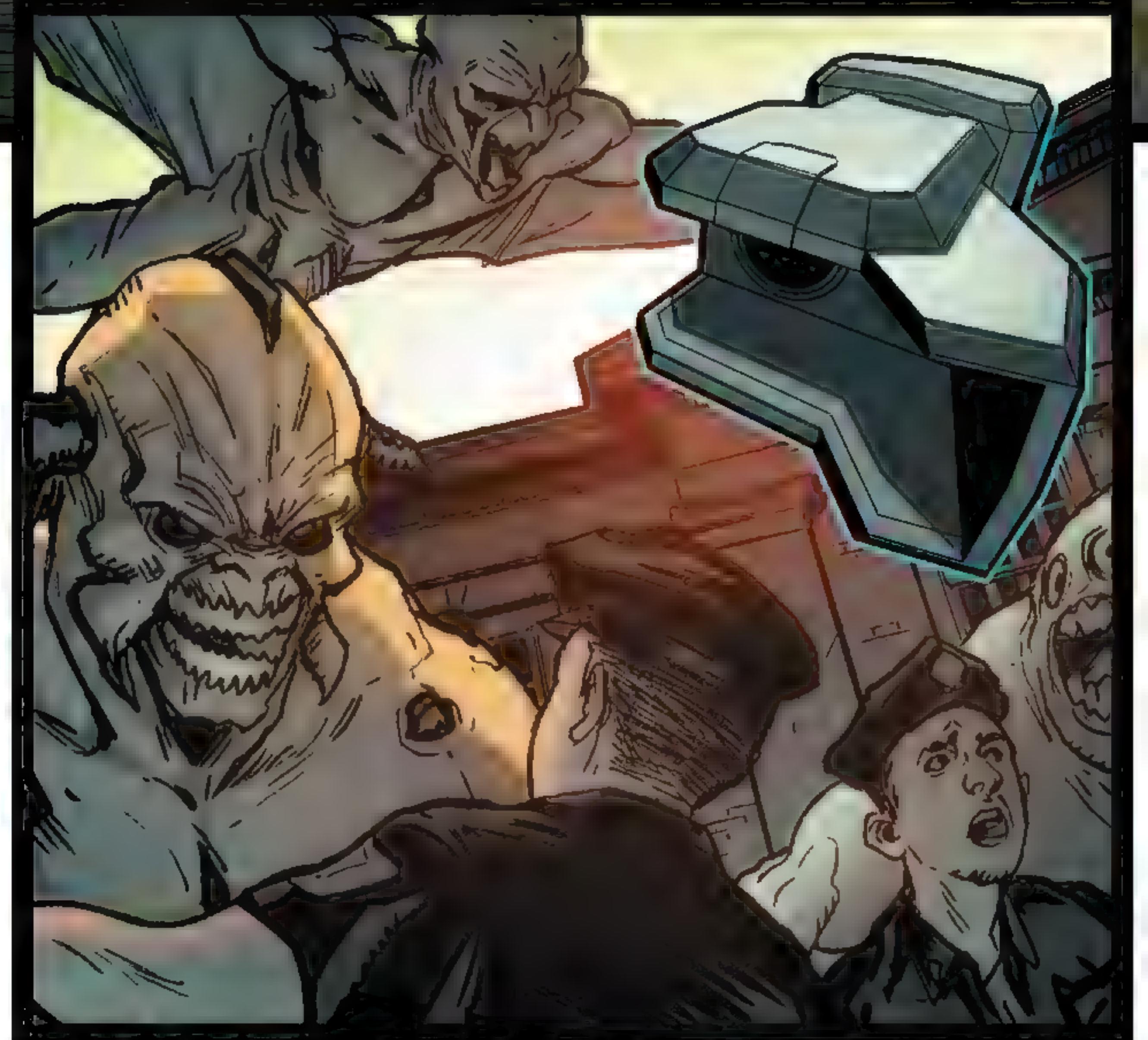
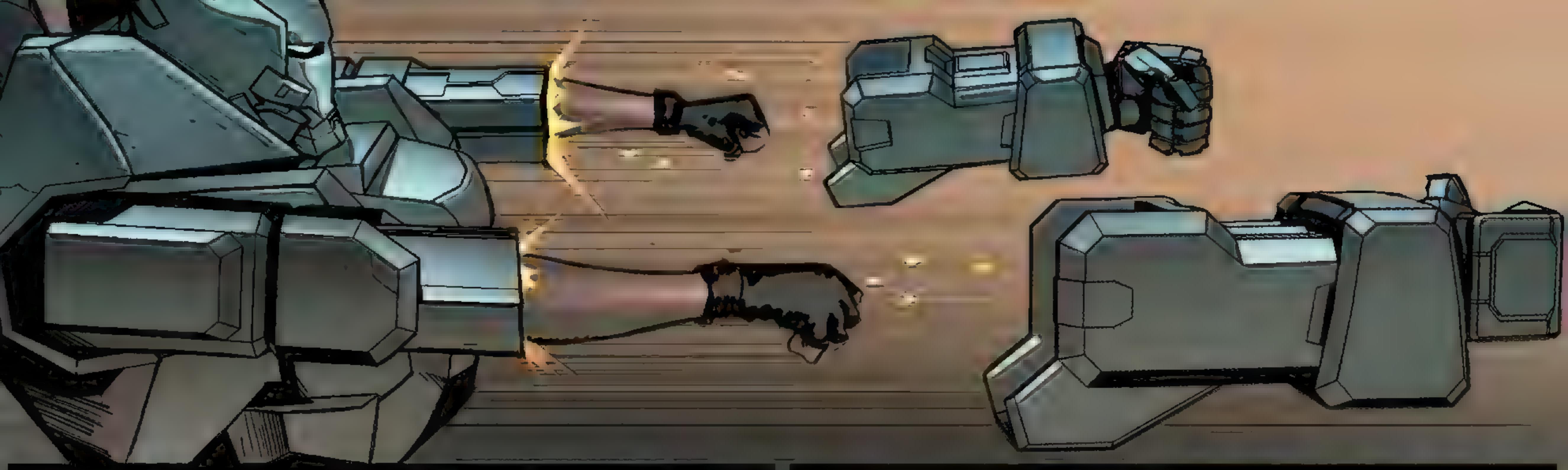


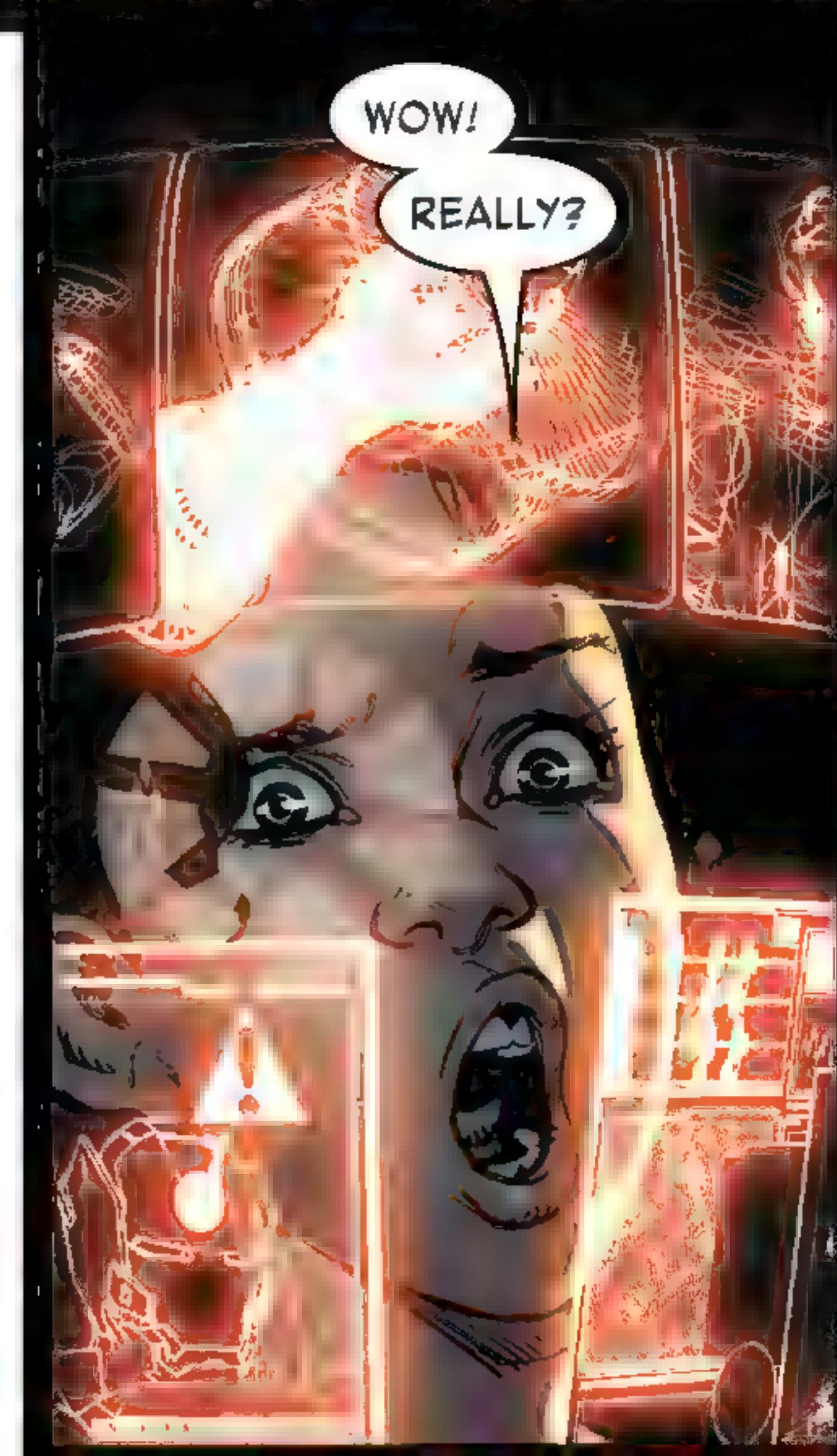
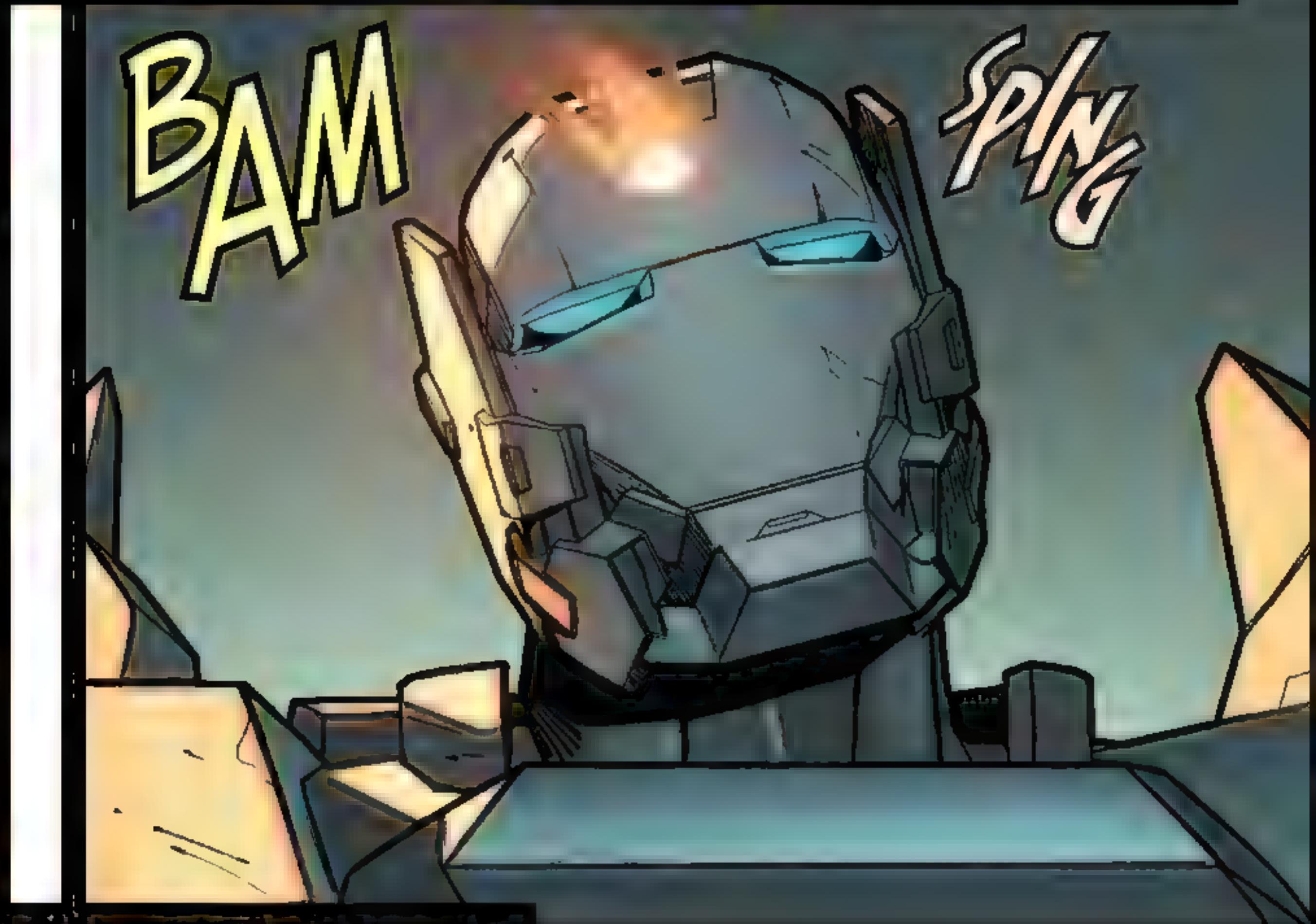
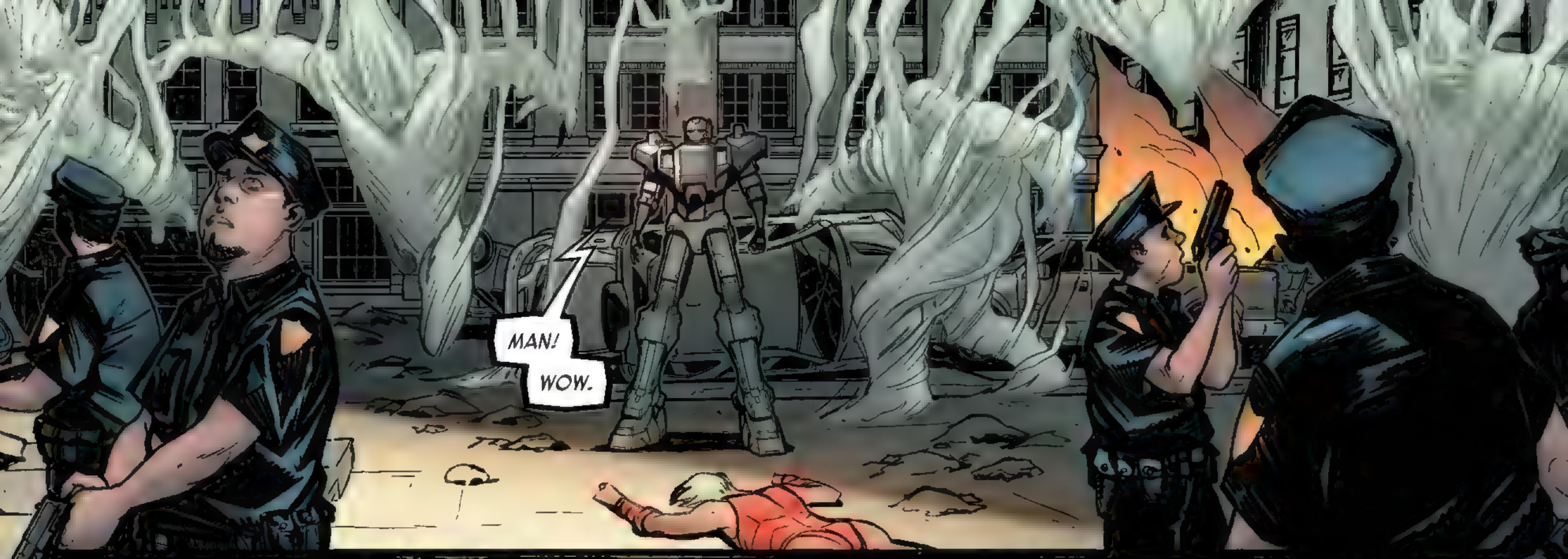


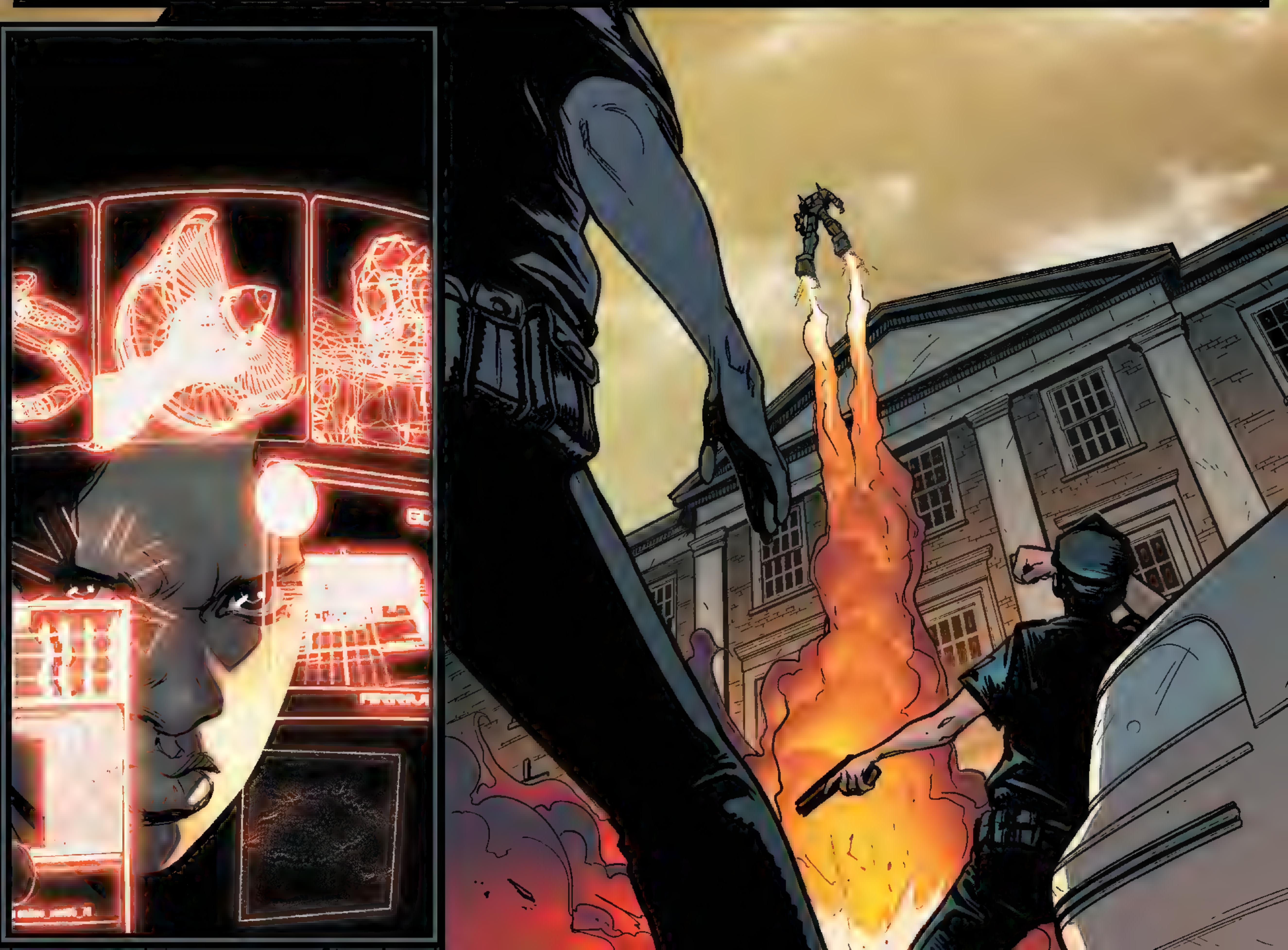


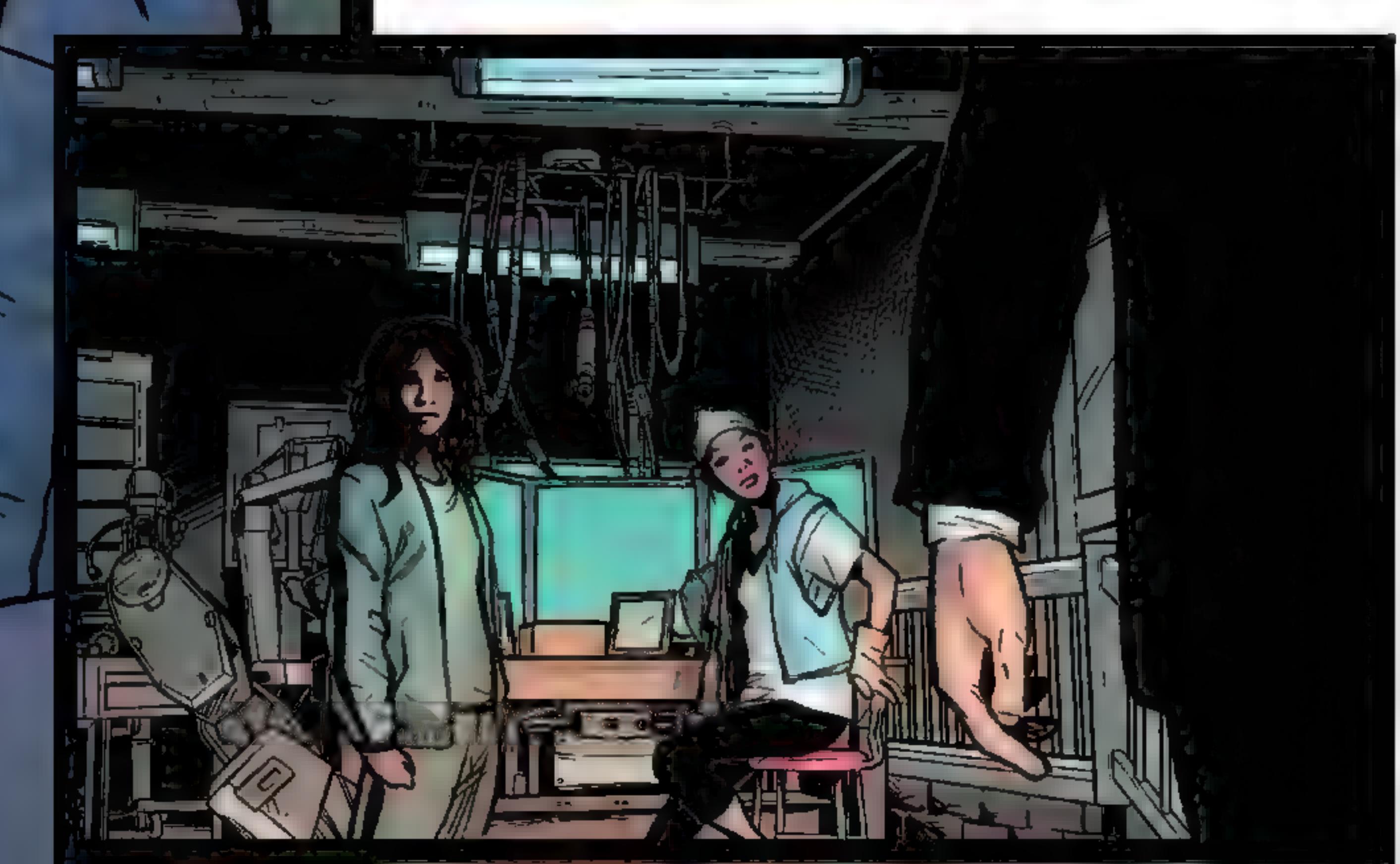


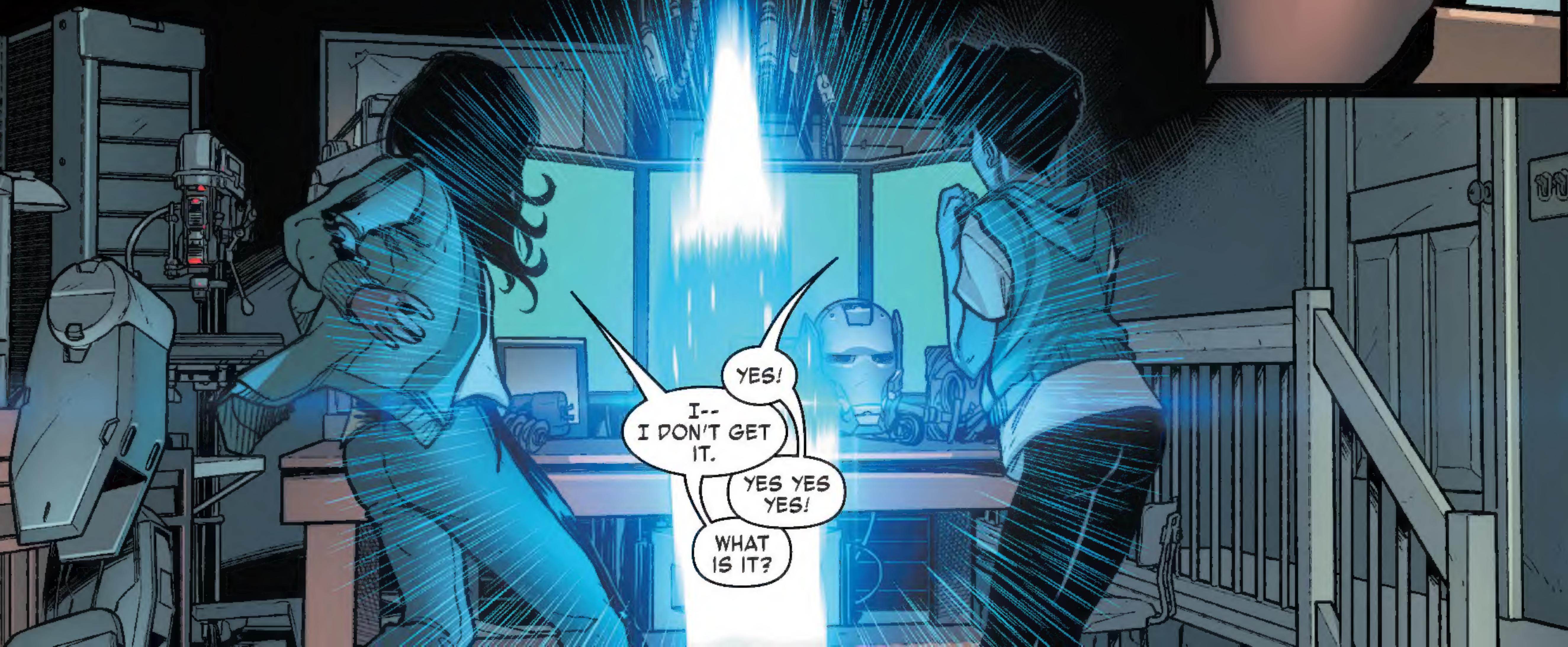
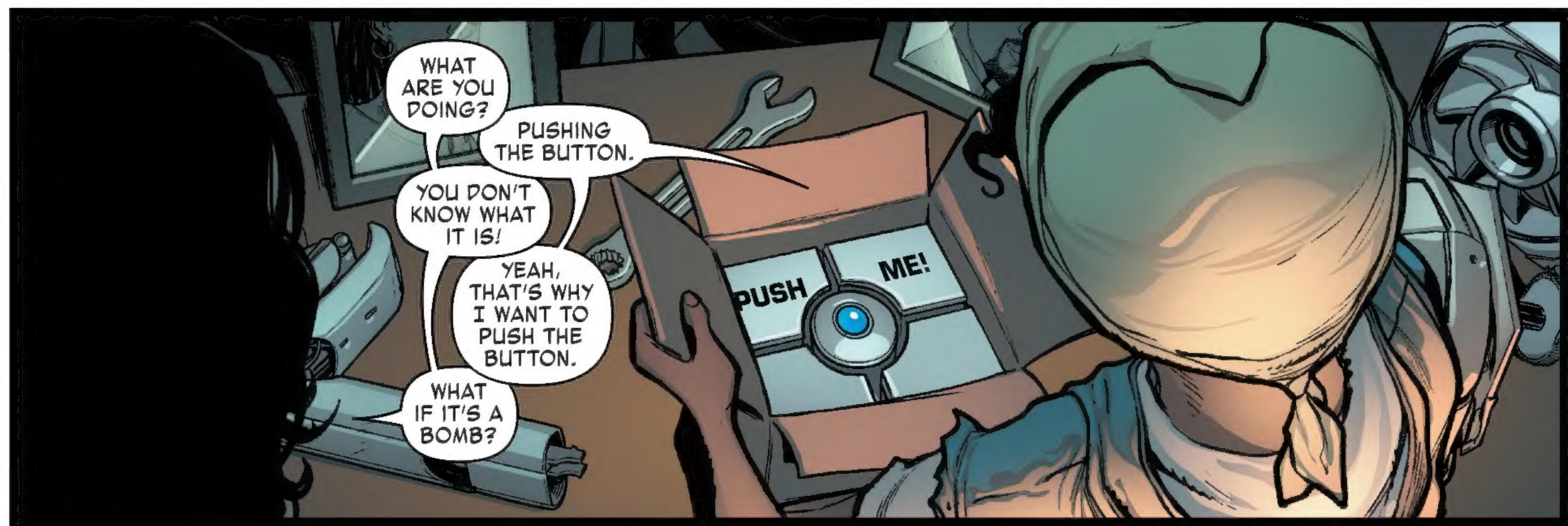












SO,
HI. I'M TONY
STARK.

WELL, HIS
ESSENCE.

IN
ESSENCE.

I DOWNLOADED
MY FABULOUS SELF
INTO A DIGITAL FRAME
IN CASE MY BODY WAS
EVER...YOU KNOW,
NOT WORKING
ANYMORE.

SO,
THIS IS ME AS AN
ADVANCED ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE
CONSTRUCT.

AND SINCE
I SEE YOU JUST
HAPPEN TO NEED AN
ADVANCED ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE CONSTRUCT
TO HELP RUN YOUR
FABULOUS NEW
SUIT...

...I
THINK WE
FOUND EACH
OTHER AT JUST
THE RIGHT
TIME.

SO, LET'S
GET TO WORK,
RIRI...

...WE
HAVE A LOT
TO DO.

TO BE CONTINUED...

SOCK IT TO SHELL-HEAD!

Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and don't forget to mark them "OKAY TO PRINT!"

Hey there, Shell-Heads--welcome to the letters page!

For those of you who are new around here, this is the part of the comic where I--the overworked, underpaid and usually slightly loopy assistant editor, Alanna Smith--answer your queries, complaints, concerns and compliments. For those of you who aren't new here and thought you would finally be rid of me after INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #14, the joke's on you! You'll never be free of me!

Anyway, here's the deal: you can email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM to let us know what you thought of Riri's first issue, and I'll do my best to respond here! Just be sure to mark your letters "Okay to Print" if you'd like to see them printed. Otherwise I will be forced to slowly drag them to my email's trash bin as my tears splash softly against my keyboard.

But that's enough about my tears! Enough, I say! Between the end of the previous INVINCIBLE IRON MAN run and the launch of this run, we got a few very nice letters that I am deigning to answer here. Let's get this show on the road!

Dear Spectacular Shell-Heads:

This is one of the things I've always wanted to see out of super hero comics. Granted I always expected that it would be the Distinguished Competition that delivered on this kind of story since they were always the "legacy hero" company, but despite creating a horde of delightful sidekicks, heirs and successors, they've never really had the guts to actually replace any of their heroes with those who are destined to inherit the cape (not since Hal and Barry took over for Alan and Jay, anyway, and that was a very different sort of thing).

But the idea that super heroes would inspire (or infuriate) others to pick up the mask is a big part of super hero comics and always has been. Training the new kids is another longstanding big part of it, whether they were sidekicks or teammates or rivals. But aside from a few notable--often temporary--exceptions, we hardly ever get to see someone step into the shoes of their mentor, not for real and not for long. But here you really seem to be setting up The Next Heroes in IRON MAN. Having Tony interact with both Doom and Riri is the perfect way to bring the story along to where you can pass it off to their hands and have it mean something. And that's what I've always wanted to see: the progression of heroes as the first generation inspires the second and the cape gets passed.

Because super heroes should change the world, and that means that things in the books have to change eventually too. Otherwise it all stagnates and we get the same stories over and over and over. Do I think we should suddenly replace all our heroes with new ones? Of course not! But every now and then, yes, I would like to see someone step down or move on or retire or even die, and someone else to take up the role they left behind. I want that to mean something. I want to see the next generation of heroes grow and shine and step out of the shadows of the ones who came before rather than being constantly relegated to "teen sidekick" status, long past the time where it makes sense to keep them mired in

that role.

Do I think we're really going to see the last of Tony Stark in the armor when this series of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN ends? Not a chance. It's not like this will be the first time someone else has taken up the armor (so all the whiners can take a chill pill, sheesh) and even back when Rhodey first stepped into the role, it felt like a temporary thing. But it would be great if we could have a nice long time with our new Shell-Heads (the good and the bad) to explore what the legacy of Tony Stark is (the good and the bad).

I hope nobody gets cold feet and shuts these kids down too early, or shoves them aside so the old guard can take over again. I don't think it diminishes one thing about the original heroes to have them pass off the cape from time to time; rather, I think it cements the importance of their position while letting the universe as a whole evolve. It also gives a character a chance to actually develop instead of being constantly returned to a "safe" status quo at the end of every arc. And I've wanted this kind of story for a long time. Good on Marvel for letting their universe grow and change and giving us the brave new world we've so long been promised by our heroes!

Nicky Wagman
Comix Connection

Receiving this letter from you was an absolute joy, Nicky! I couldn't have worded our hopes for Riri and the other legacy characters better myself. Part of the reason our writers like making moves like this is that it allows us to tell stories we haven't seen before, and it injects new life into characters who have been around for decades. And often the gravity of the original characters will pull things back to them eventually, but even if Tony takes up the mantle again, he'll be taking up a mantle that was reshaped by whoever came before him. In short, it's a blast for us and we're glad you're along for the ride!

Hi Alanna,

What's with another #1 issue? One doesn't appear to be enough for Tony Stark, he has to have 3 or 4! What's next? INVIDIOUS IRON MAN?

Brian's response in INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #14 to the question of how does a white man write ethnic or female characters was really well reasoned and eloquently explained. There's some shocking antisemitism in Europe and particularly the UK at the moment; the bigots use the actions of Israel to justify their racism. It is very disappointing and the number of Jews in the UK has fallen from 400,000 to 260,000 in recent years. I wish I had a fraction of Brian's eloquence to explain what it means to see this appalling, irrational hatred raise its ugly head yet again.

Keep cheering me up with quality comics.

Cheers,
Bruce Marsh

Hey Bruce! We did consider making Riri's takeover INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #15 rather than #1, but the story Brian wanted to tell just felt too big to tack onto the end of a run. And we wanted to launch Riri into the Marvel

Universe with fanfare and fireworks worthy of the awesome super hero she is.

Anyone interested in reading Brian's response can pick up INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #14, or check it out on Brian's Tumblr. Sorry to hear things are looking rough on the other side of the pond, Bruce.

This volume of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN, is ending already? That's really too bad, I was just waiting for the Bendis-Marquez team to return. And while I believe that legacy characters can be a good thing, having Riri Williams and Victor Von Doom take up separate Iron-mantles seems like an odd choice. Still, I trust Marvel and all of the writers and artists involved to keep making enjoyable comics that remain true to the characters.

This doesn't mean I haven't been enjoying the recent IRON MAN issues; I like them a lot. The "War Machines" arc was well-made, Deodato's art is attractive and Bendis's dialogue is witty and fun to read. I also love seeing the recurring cast of Mary Jane and Friday, who together act as the perfect foil to Tony Stark. It's been a good run, and I'm interested to see how "Ironheart" is presented in the INVINCIBLE IRON MAN relaunch.

Keep up the good work,
Josh Lamb

Hey there, Josh--hope you followed us into the new run of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN! Riri's transformation into Ironheart is a story that we've all been really looking forward to telling, and I think it'll be worth the wait.

That's all for this time! We hope you enjoyed Riri's first solo outing! We've got big dreams for this cool little lady, and if you love her half as much as we do, we're doing okay.

Until next time, Shell-Heads!

-The Invincible Alanna Smith

NEXT ISSUE:



CRASH COURSE!

